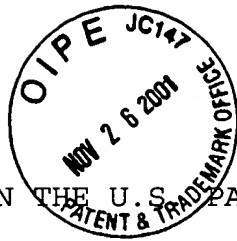


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PATENT
1377-0156P



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas Valentine MCCARTHY et al.
Appl. No.: 09/673,739 Group: 1656
Filed: October 20, 2000 Examiner: J. Tung
For: A METHOD FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF
NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES INVOLVING
GENERATION OF EXTENDIBLE UPSTREAM DNA
FRAGMENTS RESULTING FROM THE CLEAVAGE OF
NUCLEIC ACID AT AN ABASIC SITE

12/D
SJS
11/29/01

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

November 26, 2001

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2001, the due date having been extended for two (2) months to December 5, 2001, in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure attached hereto, at the end of the specification.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1 and 12 with the following amended claims.